

**American Legal Education—
Do you want to study law in the U.S.A.?**

presented by

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**Who should be interested in this presentation
about studying law in the U.S?**

You may be a:

- Law student seeking a US law degree
- Lawyer or judge seeking to enhance your background
- Educational Advisor or Counselor
- Law faculty professor or administrator
- Education Ministry or other Government official
- An interested parent of a future U.S.-trained lawyer!

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Focus of Presentation

- What overseas students want to know about law study in the US
- US legal education, generally
- Different US Law Degrees---Requirements
- Does Not highlight any particular U.S. law school
- Does Not promote US law schools over schools in other countries
- Presentation is informational only
- Lists many other information sources about U.S. law study
- Good luck!

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Outline of Presentation

1. Why Earn a Law Degree in the U.S.?
2. US Legal System & US Legal Education
3. Master of Laws (LL.M.)
 - Admissions (Application)
 - Academic Requirements (inc English Proficiency)
 - Specializing
 - Costs & Paying for LLM
 - US Student Visa
 - Bar Exam
 - Working in US – Optional Practical Training
 - Miscellaneous
4. Doctor of Jurisprudential Sciences (J.S.D. or S.J.D. or PhD)
5. Juris Doctor (J.D.)
6. Other US Law Degrees & Study Opportunities

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Why do you want to earn a law degree in the United States?

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Why do you want to earn a law degree in the United States?

- To learn how to be a better lawyer? And win more cases?
- To teach law (become professor or lecturer)?
- To publish scholarly law articles?
- To do a legal internship?
- To develop business & social networks, in this globalized society?
- To join a governmental legal department?
- To become a Judge?
- To become more well-rounded in your professional & personal life?

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More reasons to study law in the US?

- To promote public service & justice?
- To work for human rights, perhaps with the United Nations in New York?
- To try to work for a US corporation (in the US or in your home country)?
- To learn about the Common Law?
- To practice law in the United States for a Law Firm?
- To gain competitive advantage in globalized world?
- To become TV or Movie law personality, like Judge Judy, Perry Mason, or Barrister Rumpole (Old Bailey)?



1. What do you hope to accomplish?
2. Are your expectations reasonable?

There are many questions you must answer!

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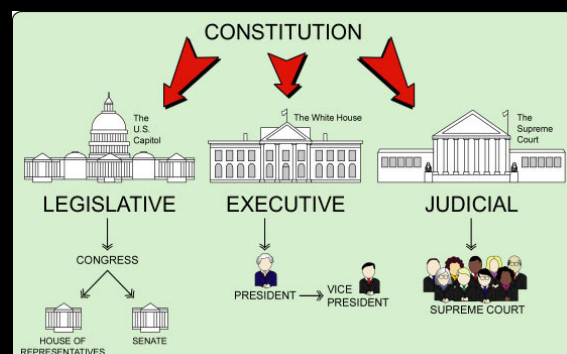
The United States Legal System— Generally

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US Legal System




- US = Federal law system
- Most states' laws based on British common law
- Louisiana law based on French Civil Code
- Law schools teach in common law tradition
- Teach federal law (U.S. law) & some state law
- Wide range of other courses, e.g., international & comparative law, humanitarian law, & foreign law

Sources of Law in the United States



Sources of Law – Generally

<i>US Domestic Law Sources</i>	<i>International Law Sources</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ US & State Constitutions◆ Federal & State Statutes◆ Executive Orders◆ Municipal Law (Ordinances; Regulations)◆ Case Law (Federal & State)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Treaties◆ Customary International Law◆ General Principles of Law



United States Legal Education — Generally

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American Bar Association (ABA) does not rank the 200 Law Schools in U.S.*

Only about 100 U.S. Law Schools offer Graduate Law Degrees (LL.M., S.J.D., J.S.D., etc.).

Which U.S. Law School is for you?

Which U.S. Law Degree is for you?

*You may find commercial rankings on the web. But, there are no official ABA-sanctioned rankings of U.S. Law Schools.

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Choose from many U.S. Law Schools!!



Georgetown University



University of Colorado



New York University



Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis



Harvard Law School

So many Law Schools to choose from!

Choose a school that is...

- A big school? Or a small school?
- A school in a big city? A small city?
- A cold city – that has snow? A hot city, with beaches and ocean?
- A “well-known” school? A “lesser-known” school?
- A “good” school?

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**But seriously, it's not
weather, building, or
city size that's most
important....**

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It's about...

- Will you receive a high quality education?
- Will the School meet your academic needs, e.g., by offering your specialization area?
- Will help you reach your professional goals?
- Will the school fit your financial needs?
- Will your reasonable expectations of the school & the LL.M. program likely be met?

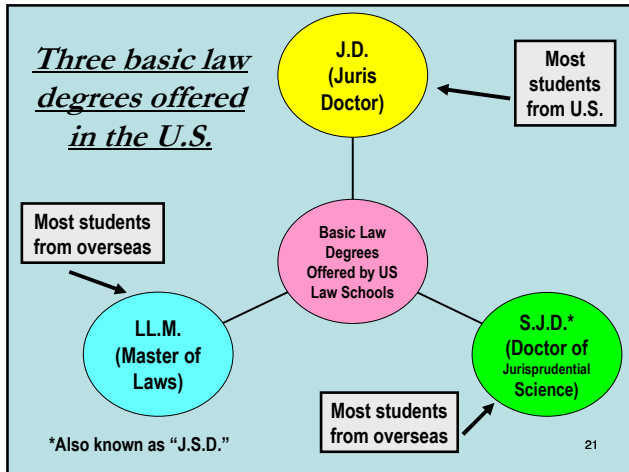
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**And check to see if the Law School you
choose is “accredited”!**

Some sources to check...

- www.aba.org (American Bar Association)
- www.aals.org (Association of American Law Schools)
- www.ed.gov (US Department of Education)

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US domestic students usually follow this or a similar path to study law...

1. **Bachelors Degree (B.S. or B.A)**
 - Can be in any major.
 - Normally 3 – 4 years.
2. **Juris Doctor Degree (J.D.)**
 - (formerly "LL.B."). Normally 3 years (6 full time semesters).
- 3(a). **Master of Laws degree (LL.M.)**
 - (post-J.D. degree). Usually to concentrate in specific law area
 - Normally one academic year – 10 months of classes
- 3(b). **J.S.D. or S.J.D. Degree**
 - A post-LL.M. degree. (Rare, mostly for small % of law professors)
 - Normally 3 – 5 years, mostly research

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International students usually follow this or a similar path to study law in the U.S....

1. **Bachelors Degree in Law (or B.A)**
 - Normally 3 or 4 years.
 - Sometimes admitted to practice law in home country
2. **Master of Laws degree (LL.M.)**
 - Normally 1 year
 - (post-J.D. degree). Usually to concentrate in specific law area)
3. **Doctor of Jurisprudential Science (J.S.D. or S.J.D. Degree)**
 - Normally 3 – 5 years, mostly research
 - (If they want to return to their home country to teach)

or

3. **Juris Doctor Degree (J.D.)**
 - Normally 3 full years of classwork
 - If they want to stay in the U.S. to practice law.

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LL.M. Degree

(Master of Laws Degree)

(Earned in one Academic Year—10 months.)

(Most popular US Law Degree for International Students!)

General Requirements*

*The LL.M. requirements for *each law school* may differ.
This presentation provides general information.
Please contact individual law schools for their own requirements.

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Admission Requirements – LL.M. Program

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Most Law Schools in the US require...

- Law degree from any country or be member of overseas Bar (licensed to practice law)
- Received 1st law degree in a 4 (or 3) year undergraduate program.
- Solid academic achievement, documented with, e.g.,:
 - Official academic transcripts
 - Diplomas
 - Graduation certificate
 - Reference letters stating professional & personal accomplishments
- English language competency.

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Not Required!

LL.M. Programs in the U.S.
Do Not require the following...

– Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

or

– Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

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LL.M. Application Deadlines (Generally)

(Please check with specific school!)

- Deadlines for Fall 2009 Admission (classes begin around August 2009):
 - International Applicants – around May 2009
 - U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents – around July 2009
- Deadline for Spring Admission (classes begin January 2008):
 - International Applicants – October 2008
 - U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents – November 2008
 - It's not too late to apply for 2009 Spring LL.M. Entry!!!!

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However:

1. LL.M. Programs are competitive to enter!
(They have a limited number of seats.)
2. Early application advised.
3. Applications reviewed when complete (including supporting documents).
4. Many schools have *flexible deadlines*. *Even if stated "deadline" has passed, contact the school anyway—they may accept your application!!*

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LL.M. Application, Admission Offers, & Conditional Offers

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Application Requirements (differ for each law school)

1. Recommendation Letters (usually 2 – 3)
 - From teachers, employers. Attest to professional - academic background & proficiency
2. Transcripts
3. Curriculum Vitae—CV (or Resume) (May be requested.)
4. Personal Statement—Essay
5. Financial Statement.
6. Financial Aid & Scholarship Request.
7. Personal Interviews on Campus (Usually not required)
8. Application Fee
9. Evidence of English Language competency (e.g., TOEFL)

Personal Statement—Essay

(Check with school to find out what is required! Talk with graduates to learn their experiences with personal statements!)

1. Schools want to learn about the real you. (*Who are you?*)
2. Grades, Test Scores, Letters of Recommendation – *Are Not Enough!*
3. Treat Personal Statement like a personal interview.
4. Should be *about* you and *by* you! (Never plagiarize a personal statement!)
5. Common items to consider discussing:
 - Why you want to do an LL.M. degree?
 - What do you hope to accomplish at the school??
 - Why you chose their particular school?
 - What are your career or other ambitions?
 - What are your strong qualities? (Honesty, organizing skills, decision-making ability, etc?).
 - What incidents affected your major life decisions?
 - Other items of interest?

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More to think about re Personal Statements?

- Be neat.
- Write in complete, grammatically correct sentences.
- Be your own “cheer leader”!
- Talk about work or educational responsibilities.
- Talk about items not included elsewhere in your application.



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I'm having trouble bragging about myself!! How can I write a great personal statement?

- Not every culture fosters self-promotion (like U.S. culture!)
- The U.S. may have a different cultural environment than your home country.
- Writing a personal statement may give help you adapt to a US environment!
- In your personal statement, be factual.
- What good things would you say about another student or colleague? Their strong points?
 - Mention similar attributes about yourself in your personal statement!
- Treat your statement like a personal interview. What would the Admissions Committee want to know about you?
- Ask a former student – LL.M. graduate – for guidance or advice.
- Check application materials for Personal Statement guidelines.³⁴



Recommendation Letters

(differ for each law school)

1. Many school require 2 – 3 recommendation letters from referees.
2. Referees can be current or past teachers, employers.
3. Letters should attest to professional and academic background & proficiency
4. Letters help Admissions Committee assess you. Committees can't meet every applicant in person.
5. Who should I ask to write my LL.M. Recommendation Letters?
 - A. Choose people who know you and your work well. They should know your work or study habits, accomplishments, and contributions.
 - Don't choose someone just because they are famous or rich!
 - They should be able to address critical points about you.
 - B. Referees should be able to address specific points about you and your background that would make you a suitable candidate for the LL.M.
 - C. Choose someone you can trust to be thoughtful and considerate as they write your letter. You might consider meeting with the referee, sending them a copy of your personal statement, or offering them insights into your goals and ambitions. (Also, you might remind them of some of your background tidbits that will refresh the referee's memory of why you would be a great LL.M. student).
 - D. Consider a mix of referees – an employer, a work supervisor and someone else who knows your abilities.

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The Application Itself

- Follow directions!
- Be neat.
- Meet deadlines.
- Make sure it is complete, with all attachments.
- The Application may be the first exposure the school admission committee has to you. Make a good 1st impression!

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Your Offer or Acceptance Letter!

- After your hard work, Law Schools will send you an Acceptance Letter, inviting you to join their LL.M. Program!



- Be certain to:
 - Respond to offer in timely manner
 - Follow all guidelines regarding accepting
 - Check Education USA for tips*
 - Celebrate!

*http://www.useducation.com.pk/stpages/graduate_choosingagradschool.html

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Conditional Admission Offer

- If you get a *Conditional Offer*, the Law School requires you to satisfy certain conditions before you may enroll in the LL.M. Program.
- E.g. condition may be (or may include) that you
 - Receive certain score on English Language exam
 - Reach certain ESL program standard
 - Submit other academic evidence.
- Please read the *Conditional Offers* carefully!
- You may not be permitted to enroll in the LL.M. Program until the condition is satisfied.

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Degree Requirements – LL.M. Program

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LL.M. – Length of Study

- Most LL.M. Programs require 2 semesters study on campus.
- 1st semester = Fall (August – December).
- 2nd semester = Spring (January – May).
- Many finish in 1 academic year (August – May) (ten-10) months But, some finish in 3 semesters.
- Arrive on campus 1 – 2 weeks before classes for orientation.
- May be possible to begin in January & graduate in December.

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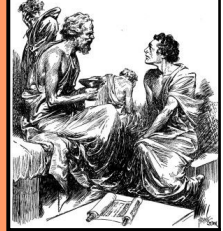
Courses to fulfill my LL.M. academic requirements?

- Usually students complete 24-credits (8 – 10 courses)
 - Mandatory courses
 - Some are exclusively for International LL.M. students, E.g., Introduction to American Law, your specialization courses
 - Elective courses
 - Choose from dozens of courses in many fields
 - LL.M. students take most elective courses with JD students
 - LL.M. students interact with & learn from JD classmates
- Most courses “classroom” or “lecture” courses

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What is a “typical” LL.M. Class? Teaching in the “Socratic Method”.

- Most mandatory & elective courses taught using “Socratic Method”.
- Professor & student dialogue.
- Professor asks probing questions. Dialogue begins.
- Goal = to expose fallacies in rationale or assumptions.
- Quest for truth—about issues & belief systems.
- Students must prepare for classes each day-homework!
- Don’t expect Professor to read from notes!



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Surprises for International LL.M. students!

Are you surprised that...

- US Law Schools require students to speak in class! (Be prepared!)
- Many professors do not “lecture”.
- Professors expect students to answer questions.
- Professors also expect students to ask questions!

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LL.M. – Hands-on, Experiential Courses

Some schools offer “experiential” courses—learning, outside of the classroom. Students earn credit from:

- Moot Court Competitions
- Writing Competitions
- Research with Professors
- Independent Research Projects
- Internships or externships (in U.S. or abroad)

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Learn how to argue in Court!

Law Student in
"Moot Court".

Law Professors
act as "Judges"



Student at Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

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Some Law Schools offer "hands-on", experiential learning*

- Legal clinics (Domestic)
 - Immigration law
 - Assistance to indigent clients in civil & criminal cases
- Local Pro bono legal services
 - Teen Court
 - Street Law Program of Equal Justice Works
- International Pro Bono Opportunities, e.g.
 - Guantanamo Bay Cases
 - International Criminal Cases (E.g., Rwanda, ICC, Slobodan Milosevic Case in ICTY)
 - Submit reports & appear before United Nations Committees

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*Check schools for courses! These are from Indiana Univ. School of Law - Indianapolis

Legal Analysis, Research & Writing

- LLM Programs should teach LLMs how to analyze issues, conduct legal research & write.
- Be sure to ask:
 - Will school teach practical skills – to help in your law practice?
 - Drafting contracts?
 - Writing briefs or motions?
 - Drafting legal Memoranda?
 - Or are most classes lecture or Socratic?



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Courses *only* for LL.M. students

Some schools offer some courses only for international LL.M. students:

- *Integrated Legal Analysis & Contracts*
- *Integrated Legal Analysis & Torts*
- *Legal Research for LL.M. Students*

Offered at Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

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Improve Your Online Legal Research Skills

- Most US Law schools grant LL.M. students *unlimited, free access* to online databases, such as:

Westlaw The industry leader in legal research.



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LL.M. Thesis

- Some Programs require Master's Thesis
- Some Programs have optional Thesis
- Some Programs may not permit Thesis
- *Be sure to check with specific Law School!*
- *Will you have a Thesis Faculty Advisor who will work closely with you?*
 - Guide Research? Review Outlines & Drafts?

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English Language Proficiency Requirements?

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English Language Proficiency Required* (Required Tests & Scores Vary By School)

- Schools may require TOEFL, Test of Written English (TWE), Test of Spoken English (TSE) or other test.
- Sample Scores School May Require (*but could be higher!*)*:
 - > 550 – 575 (or higher, e.g., 600)—paper-based TOEFL*
 - > 230—computer based TOEFL* (or higher)
 - > 89—iBT TOEFL* (or higher)
 - > 6.5—IELTS* (or higher)
- Some law schools accept "First Grade" on national Japanese English Proficiency STEP Exam.

**Again, critical to check each school for their specific requirements!*

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English Language (Continued)

- Higher score, better chance for admission.
- Some schools accept *Intensive English/Masters Prep* at English as a Second Language (ESL) Centers to satisfy the English requirement.
- International students may be required to take ESL Placement Test on campus before classes.

*Again, critical to check each school for their specific requirements!

Is English my 2nd or 3rd Language?

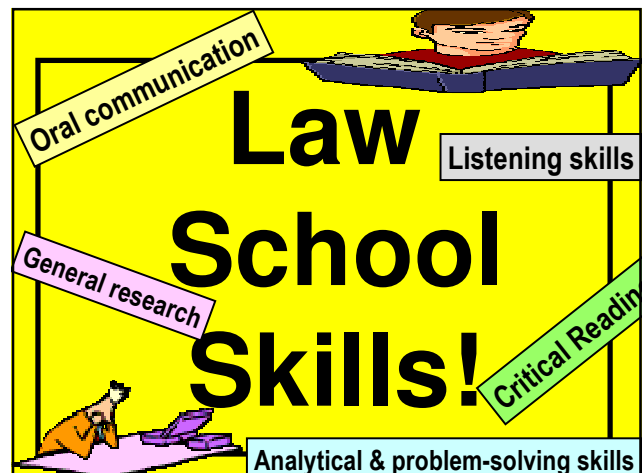
- Schools may give *extra time for law exams*.
- Schools may give extra English instruction.
- Check each individual school's policies!

*Again, critical to check each school for their specific requirements!

Using English during the LLM year

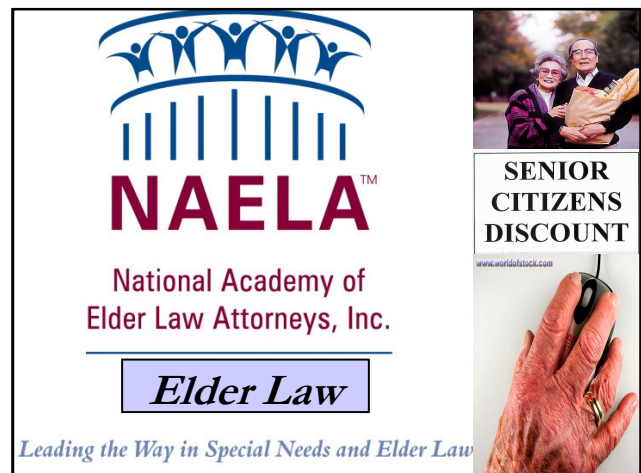
- You will take regular classes with JD students. Practice your "Legal English" with them!
- Spending time with LLMs from your home country
 - Will you speak English, or your home language?
 - Will you learn more & have a broader experience if you meet U.S. students, or students from other countries, and speak English?
- Talk with your professors. Many US Law professors are happy to meet with students after class.
- Don't be shy!

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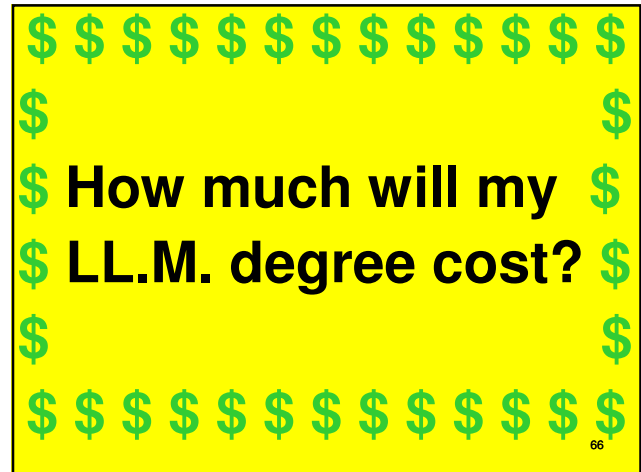


Yes!

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And, how will I pay for it?

- Travel to the U.S.
- Tuition & Books
- Insurance
- Housing, Food.
- Etc....

It adds up....

Total Costs Vary...Depending on

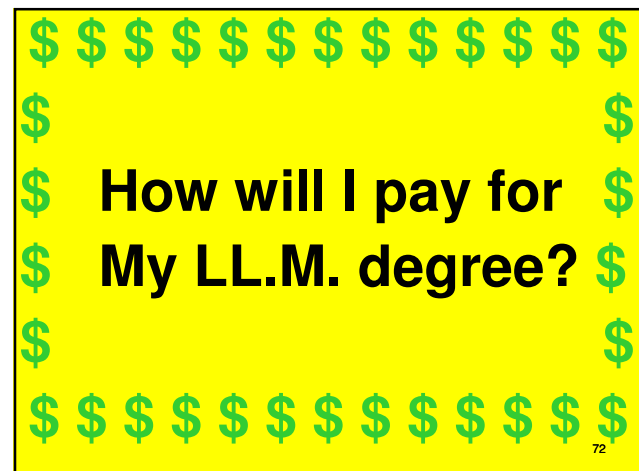
- Is school public or private?
- Cost of living in the city? (Big cities tend to be more expensive.)
- Available scholarships, loans, other financial aid?
- School's reputation?
- Etc?



Tuition Expense Alone!	
(Add \$15,000 - \$30,000 to figures for fees & living expenses) (Please double-check figures with specific law schools!)	
• \$46,244 (Northwestern) ('08 - '09)	
• \$42,890 (New York University) ('08 - '09)	
• \$42,795 (Berkeley) ('08 - '09)	
• \$39,776 (Emory) ('08 - '09)	
• \$39,325 (Harvard) ('07 - '08)	
• \$34,356 (Texas) ('08 - '09)	
• \$31,598 (Indiana at Indianapolis) ('08)	

Typical Program Cost & Expense Chart*	
• Tuition (2008- 2009)	\$31,598
• Mandatory Fees	1,100
• Books & Supplies	1,100
• Housing & Living	13,700
• Health Insurance	1,036
Total Cost	<u>\$48,534</u>

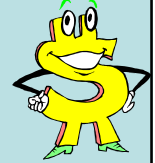
*Figures from Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis LL.M.
(<http://indylaw.indiana.edu/llm/cost.htm>)



Scholarships & Grants— General

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Scholarships



- Some schools offer scholarships & other financial assistance.
- Read school materials carefully. Follow application guides!
- Schools want qualified students & will help finance if:
 - Student demonstrates financial need; and
 - Student has outstanding academic / professional credentials.

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Scholarships

Students encouraged to seek scholarship & grant opportunities through:

- Home governments
- Employers
- Home universities
- U.S. government
- Private foundations in U.S. & abroad.

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A Few General Scholarships

- Rotary Foundation – Rotary Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships—Up to \$26,000
- Rotary Foundation – Rotary Multi-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships—\$13,000
- Institute for Humane Studies—Humane Studies Fellowships—\$2,000 - \$12,000

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Fulbright Program for Foreign Students – Sponsored by US Department of State

- 1,800 grants to non-U.S. students for US study annually.
(foreign.fulbrightonline.org)
- Run through Institute of International Education (IIE)
(<http://www.foreign.fulbrightonline.org>).
- Administered in 50 countries by Binational Commission, & in
remaining countries by U.S. State Department overseas staff.
- Applications go to home country Commission or U.S. Embassy

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Ministry of Higher Education

- Check your country's Education
Ministry for scholarships
- E.g.,
 - Saudi Arabia
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Libya
 - Thailand
 - Malaysia

Please Check with Government in Every Country!

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Other Possible Scholarship or Grant Sources

- United Nations
- International Maritime Organization
- International Telecommunications Union
- League of Red Cross Societies
- Soros Foundation
- World Health Organization
- World Council of Churches
- EduPass --
(<http://www.edupass.org/finaid/sources.phtml>)

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Students.gov

- Joint effort of fed agencies, students, &
education community led by US Education Dept.
- home page =
<http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/Public>
- Student.gov scholarship page =
<http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/Public?topicID=15&operation=topic>



Scholarship Information Sources (Other)

- *Funding for US Study: Guide for International Students & Professionals (Financial Assistance for U.S. Study & Research Offered by Universities, Foundations & Other Organizations)* (Published by Institute of International Education) (2008)
- *The Grants Register*, published annually by Macmillan (UK).
- IIE: Institute of International Education. Info re many fellowship & scholarships for citizens of all countries.
- US Dept. of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- USAID
- <http://www.law.uoregon.edu/org/llm/finances.html> (Links)

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Scholarships— Nationality- Based

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Education USA Opportunity Grants—For overseas students seeking US degrees

Grants will pay for:

- Test fees, including TOEFL
- Round-Trip transportation for in-country testing
- L.L.M. Application fees (inc courier fees)
- Document translations
- US Visa fees (including transportation from home city to US Embassy)
- International phone-fax-internet to communicate with schools
- Transportation to/from law school in U.S.
- Advanced English lessons
- One-time settling-in allowance
- Gap Scholarships— supplement law school aid.



educationUSA

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Education USA Opportunity Grants – Currently Available for Students From...

Algeria	Belarus	Bolivia
Brazil	Colombia	Ecuador
Egypt	Indonesia	Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan	Malaysia	Nicaragua
Paraguay	Peru	Philippines
Russia	South Africa	Tajikistan
Turkey	Turkmenistan	Ukraine
Venezuela	Yemen	

(But check to see if new countries are added!)

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/educationusa/oi.htm>

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Some Nationality-Based Scholarships & Grants

- Amideast (Students from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, West Bank-Gaza, Yemen)
- BUNAC Best Scholarship—\$5,000 - \$10,000. (UK student)
- CETANA Scholarship Program—Variable scholarship \$ (Myanmar student)
- Comision Nacional de Investigation Cientifica & Technologica (CONICYT), Ministerio de Planification & Cooperation (MIDEPLAN) (Chile student)
- Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Cientifico & Tecnológico (CNPQ) (Brazil student)
- (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior) (Coordination for Improvement of Higher Education Personnel) (Brazil⁸⁵ student)

Ford Foundation Fellowships for Citizens of...

Brazil	Chile	China
Egypt	Ghana	Guatemala
India	Indonesia	Kenya
Mexico	Mozambique	Nigeria
Palestine	Peru	Philippines
Russia	Senegal	South Africa
Tanzania	Thailand	Uganda
Vietnam		

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Scholarships For Women

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American Association of University Women (AAUW)—LL.M. Fellowships

- Full-time LL.M. study to women *who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.*
- High academic achievement
- Demonstrated commitment to women & girls.
- Most return home & become leaders in their fields.
- www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellows_directory/international.cfm⁸⁸



AAUW – 12 Women LLM Fellows in US since 2004 (\$18,000 each)!

South Africa	Zambia	India
Ethiopia	Israel	Kenya
Nigeria	Eritrea	Argentina
Sri Lanka		

Application Deadline—1 December 2008

For Academic Year—July 2009 - June 2010

http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellowships_grants/international.cfm



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Other Scholarship Websites

- www.finaid.org/search/htdig/htsearch.cgi?method=and&format=cust_long&config=htdig&restrict=&exclude=&words=international+student
- <http://www.gaje.org/membership.html>
- <http://www.internationalscholarships.com/>
- <http://www.internationalstudentloan.com/>
- <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- <http://www.edupass.org/finaid/>

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www.fastweb.com

Fastweb sends e-mail alerts about possible
scholarships & grants. Just register!



What are you searching for?
required

☐ Scholarships ☐ Colleges ☐ Both

Which best describes you?
required

☐ Student ☐ Parent ☐ Educator

Your email address
Your email address is used as your
user name.
required :: help information >

Create a password
Your password should be between
8 and 28 characters. Please enter it
twice to prevent typos.
required :: help information >

Please re-enter your password for verification.

Are you currently enrolled in
high school or college?
required

☐ Yes ☐ No

What is your current school
year?
If you're not currently enrolled,
provide the year you last
completed.
required

Choose one

Join NAFSA! (National Association of International Educators) (Learn about scholarships & grants!)

NAFSA Member ID

Below is a proof of your NAFSA Wallet ID. Please verify that all information is correct.
To change any of this information, please visit our Membership Profile Page.



Student Loans

General

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Private loan to foreign students

Private Loans are very hard to get
for international students!

You might try to contact

Law Loan - Sallie Mae
www.salliemae.com (800) 984-0190

There are no guarantees of getting a loan!

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\$\$\$\$


Saving Tips

95

How our LL.M. students survive (Saving Money)

- Buy used books.
- Cook at home.
- Get inexpensive student insurance (for car, health, etc).
- Ride a bike or walk (rather than drive)
- Share accommodations.
- Ride free campus bus to school.
- Get student discounts at local stores, apartment complexes, etc.
- If possible, deduct tuition from home country taxes (check with a tax accountant or other professional).

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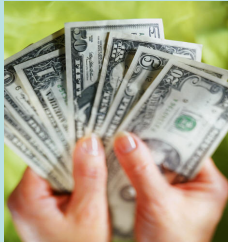


On-campus work


Study visa permits you
to work up to 20 hours
per week on campus.

Students have worked as:

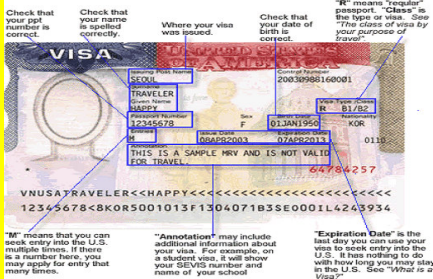
- Research Assistant for Professor
- Library
- Tutor
- Clerical work
- Restaurant
- Other




U.S. Student Visa



Like jumping
hurdles at the
Olympics!



Everything you want to know about Student Visas.



EducationUSA (U.S. State Department)
provides information about student visas at
<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/usvisa.htm>

- What type of visa do I need to study in the United States?
- What is a Visa?
- What are important steps in applying for a Student Visa?
- Where in my country can I find more information about visas?
- What is SEVIS?
- What happens when I arrive in the U.S.?

The U.S. Visa Process – Generally*

- First, you apply for admission to LLM Program at US School
- The US Law School Accepts you!
- School sends you USCIS Form I-20
 - Most people call it an “I-20” (pronounced “eye 20”)
 - (USCIS Form I-20 A-B/ID) (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status - for Academic and Language Students).
- You take I-20 to US Consulate/Embassy – Visa Interview
- You must prove to embassy, among other things, that you have \$ resources needed for your education and stay in U.S.

*US Embassies & Consulates can give you complete Visa acquisition details

Can international LL.M. Graduates take Bar Exam & practice law in U.S.?

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Must be "admitted to bar" to practice law in US

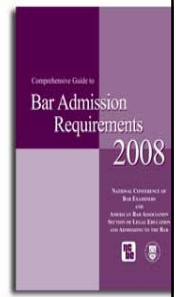
- Must ordinarily pass bar exam. Each state bar sets own criteria for exam & admission.
- International LL.M. grads from ABA-approved schools may sit the bar in some states.
- Please check with Board of Law Examiners of state where you wish to take bar.
- [American Bar Association*](http://www.abanet.org) website; [2007 Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements](http://www.ncbex.org) (National Conference of Bar Examiners.)**

- State bar exams stats: [National Conference of Bar Examiners*](http://www.ncbex.org)

*<http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/>

**http://www.ncbex.org/fileadmin/mediafiles/downloads/Comp_Guide/CompGuide.pdf

***<http://www.ncbex.org/>



A General Rule—

To qualify to sit for Bar Exam you ordinarily need...

- J.D. Degree from ABA-approved school
 - See ABA's *Section of Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar*
<http://www.abanet.org/legaled/>;
 - ABA = professional association for law.

Or

- LL.M. degree from US School + foreign law degree
 - (in approximately 10 states)

But Please..... check with Board of Law Examiners, of state where you wish to take bar.

LL.M. graduates may take the Bar Exam in more than 10 U.S. states.



<http://www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions/bar.html>

State or Jurisdiction	Are graduates of foreign law schools eligible for admission in your jurisdiction?		If graduates of foreign law schools are eligible to take the bar examination under the rules in your jurisdiction, are any of the following required?					If a foreign law school graduate receives an LL.M. or other graduate law degree from an ABA-approved school, is the graduate then eligible to take the bar examination?		
	Yes	No	Locally educated in U.S. law school	Additional education at an ABA-approved law school	That practice law in your jurisdiction	A determination of educational equivalency	Admission in another U.S. jurisdiction	A determination of educational equivalency	Locally educated in U.S. law school	Yes
Alabama	X									
Alaska	X		X			X	X			
Arizona		X								
Arkansas		X								
California	X			X	X	X	X			
Colorado	X		X							
Connecticut		X								
Delaware	X									
Dist. of Columbia	X			X						
Florida		X								
Georgia		X								
Hawaii	X		X							
Illinois	X									
Indiana		X								
Iowa		X								
Kansas		X								
Kentucky		X								
Louisiana		X								
Maine		X			X					
Maryland		X								
Massachusetts		X	X		X			X	X	X
Michigan		X								
Minnesota		X								
Mississippi		X								
Missouri	X			X			X			

Chart I – State Bar Info for Foreign Law School Graduates
(check www.abanet.org/legal/education/bar.html)

State or Jurisdiction	Are graduates of foreign law schools eligible for admission in your jurisdiction?		If graduates of foreign law schools are eligible to take the bar examination under the rules in your jurisdiction, are any of the following required?					If a foreign law school graduate receives an LL.M. or other graduate law degree from an ABA-approved school, is the graduate then eligible to take the bar examination?		
	Yes	No	Locally educated in U.S. law school	Additional education at an ABA-approved law school	That practice law in your jurisdiction	A determination of educational equivalency	Admission in another U.S. jurisdiction	A determination of educational equivalency	Locally educated in U.S. law school	Yes
Nevada	X		X			X	X			
New Hampshire	X		X			X	X		X	X
New Jersey		X								
New Mexico	X									
New York	X			X			X			
North Carolina	X			X						
North Dakota		X								
Ohio	X					X				
Oklahoma		X								
Oregon	X		X							
Pennsylvania	X				X					
Rhode Island	X									
South Carolina		X								
South Dakota		X								
Tennessee	X									
Texas	X									
Utah	X									
Vermont		X								
Virginia		X					X	X		
Washington		X								
West Virginia		X								
Wisconsin		X								
Wyoming		X								
Guam										
N. Mariana Islands										
Puerto Rico										
Virgin Islands										

Chart I(a) – State Bar Info for Foreign Law School Graduates
(check www.abanet.org/legal/education/bar.html)

**Can I work in U.S. after
my LL.M. Program?**

**(Optional Practical
Training (OPT))**

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**LL.M. Graduates may work in
U.S. after completing LL.M.**

- Through Optional Practical Training (OPT):*
 - Temporary employment.
 - Directly related to student's major area of study.
 - After completing LL.M.
- Law Schools *should* help students apply for OPT.

*Please check for current guideline--<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>
(New Rules come out from time to time, for example, on 4 April 2008.)
http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/OPT_FAQ_4apr08.pdf

OPT Application process (Please check for current rules!)

- Consult school officials to learn the OPT Application Process.
- Law Schools will provide advice and assistance regarding which forms need to be filed, and when.
- Students can begin OPT work after application approved by the government and appropriate authorization issued.



“Right to Work” in the US

- No automatic right to work in US simply because you have....

- JD degree
- LL.M. degree
- Passed a state bar exam

- Check to ensure you qualify to work! ¹¹⁰

How can I find a job post-LLM?



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Many ways to find jobs

- Law School Placement Offices (interviews on & off campus)
- LLM Job Fairs
- Law School Alumni
- Law School Professors
- Embassies & Consulates
- Internet Searches
- Professional Organizations
- Perseverance!



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International Student Interview Program (ISIP)

23 & 24 January 2009 (Friday & Saturday), New York

- Job fair for LL.M.s from many US schools
- Over 1100 LL.M. candidates from 75+ countries
- Internship & permanent US & overseas jobs
- Fair is at New York University (NYU) Law School
- **Registration Deadline – 31 October 2008!**
- <http://www.law.nyu.edu/depts/careerservices/isip/StudentFAQs.html>



New York Job Fair – Participating Schools

American U	Boston U	Brigham Young U
UC Berkeley	Chicago-Kent	U Connecticut
Cornell	Duke	U Florida
Fordham	Georgetown	George Washington
U Georgia	U Houston	U Illinois
Indiana	McGeorge	U Miami
U Minnesota	NYU	Northwestern
Penn State Dickinson		U Pennsylvania
U San Diego	U of Southern California	
Southern Methodist	Temple U	U Texas
Tulane	UCLA	Vanderbilt
		Wake Forest

Does your law school help LL.M. students find jobs?

What Else To Expect In LL.M. Program—Other Student Benefits?

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Student leadership & social activities—Examples

American Civil Liberties Union	Amnesty International
Animal Law Society	Asian Law Students Association
Black Law Students Assoc.	Business Law Association
Christian Legal Society	Committee on Diversity Issues
Dean's Student Advisory Bd.	Dean's Tutorial Society
Democratic Law Society	Environmental Law Society
Equal Justice Works	Federalist Society
Feminist Law Society	Health Law Society
Hispanic Law Society	Lambda (GLBT)
Muslim Law Association	American Constitution Society

Offered at Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

Participate in Activities!

- Career Counseling & Workshops
- Workshops on Finding Jobs
- Assistance with CV (Resume)
- "Etiquette" Luncheon
- Learning about U.S. Culture
- Field Trips to other US cities
- Barristers Ball (formal dinner for all law students)
- Picnics & Holiday parties
- Organized visits to:
 - symphony
 - professional sporting events (e.g., Colts, Pacers, etc)
 - and other events and activities.

At Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis, some events organized by LL.M. Office, others by Master of Laws Association.

What professional and social events are available for LL.M. students?

- Meeting local judges & lawyers?
- Adjunct Professors—Judges, Lawyers, etc teaching LL.M. Classes?
- Guest Lecturers—Sharing real life experiences!
- Field trips to courts, legislatures, and Governor's offices?
- Conferences & symposia held on campus
- Campus lectures & debates by outside academics, practitioners * public officials?
- Meet corporate officials, inc. in-house counsel at multi-national corporations.

At Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis, some events organized by LL.M. Office, others by Master of Laws Association & Law School.

Do LLM students participate in law school governance?

1. **Student Bar Association (SBA) Representative.** LL.M. students elects 2 SBA Reps. The SBA governs student body.
2. **Dean's Advisory Board Representative.** LL.M. students advise on law school governance.
3. **Master of Laws Association (MLA).** Founded by LL.M. students. Offers more opportunities to contribute to school governance.

LL.M. Student Leadership at Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis

**Can LL.M.
graduates enter
J.D. program?**

Can LLM students enroll in Juris Doctor (J.D.) Program?

- Yes, at some U.S. law schools.
- Schools may hold foreign LL.M. graduates subject to same admission requirements as other J.D. applicants.
- Thus LL.M. graduates would submit LSAT results.
- Some schools may permit some credits earned in LL.M. Program to be transferred to J.D. Program.

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Things to consider when choosing a U.S. LL.M. Program.

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Academics — (*Consider This...*)

- Sufficient courses in your area of interest or specialization?
- Interesting courses offered during your LL.M. year?
- Required courses offered during your LL.M. year?
- Enough specialized courses for my specialization diploma?
- Is Law Library a United Nations Depository?
- Any international librarians?
- Pro bono opportunities?
- Domestic or international internships?
- Thesis Requirements?
- LL.Ms taking courses at non-law faculties (e.g., Business or Medical School)?

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Faculty — (*Consider This. . .*)

- Sufficient professors research & teach in your area of interest or specialization?
- Faculty worked for government, major law firms? Worked overseas?
- Faculty work closely with me as a student?
- Faculty also practicing lawyers? Bar members?
- Students can communicate with professors & Faculty Advisors before student arrives?
- Faculty meet with students socially? In small groups?
- Professors' credentials?
- Quality of teaching, research & public service?



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Career Development Support (Consider this...)

- LL.M. administrator dedicated to helping LL.M. student career development?
- School actively supports LL.M. student job search?
- Staff helps with your CV or resume?
- Schools supports LL.M. career development as it supports J.D. career development?
- Adequate opportunities to meet lawyers, judges and other legal professionals?
- School facilitates law firms to interview LL.M. students on campus?
- Adequate support for Optional Practical Training information & application opportunities?



Law School Staff – (Consider This. . .)

- Respond promptly to inquiries (in 24 - 48 hours)?
- Accessible—"Open Door Policy" for LLM Students?
- Offices & resources open for LL.M. student use?
- LL.M. students feel comfortable with administrators?
- Provide information LLMs believe they need?
- Facilitate applicants' access to faculty?
- Facilitate students' access to faculty?
- Organize adequate social and other events?
- Support part-time, on-campus job search for LLMs?



Student Voice – (Consider This. . .)

- LL.M. students participate in student governance?
- LL.M. represented on Student Bar Association?
- LL.M. serve on Dean's Advisory Board?
- LLMs can express concerns about their academic, administrative & other experiences?
- Student comments on the Law School web page?
- Students encouraged to exercise free speech & association?
- Does Law School webpage reflect positive institution where you'd want to spend a full year? Is the website up to date? Accurate? Comprehensive? Created with concern for student or applicant?



Bar Exams – (Consider This. . .)

- Any international graduates pass Bar Exam?
- Any graduates from your country pass Bar Exam?
- Law School provide appropriate information about State Bar Examiner offices?



School Atmosphere – (*Consider This. . .*)

- Atmosphere seems supportive of international students?
- School has international student welcoming center?
- Reserved room for LL.M.s to meet—to socialize, to study?
- Bulletin boards for LL.M. students?
- LL.M. on-campus housing available? Library desks or carrels? Lockers? Bicycle racks?
- Are LL.M. students treated at same level as J.D. students? Treat like individuals (or like cash cows)?
- Supportive of students who develop financial or other difficulties?
- Do you think you would fit in at the school?
- Atmosphere welcoming and comfortable?



Fellow Students – (*Consider This. . .*)

- How many LL.M. students from my country? Other countries?
- Active Alumni Association? In my country?
- Fellow students at your academic level—can compete? Too advanced for you? Too slow?
- Students share your career & other goals? (Also want to join law firms, do public service, work in your area of interest, etc?)
- Reserve on campus work for international students who can't work off campus.
- LL.M. take classes with J.D. students?
- LL.M. students assigned JD mentor?



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Where To Get More Information About LL.M. Programs?

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Get More Info about U.S. LL.M. Programs!

- Professional journals
- Your professors
- Law school web pages
- American Bar Association
- EducationUSA
- Alumni Associations of US Schools with branches in your home country
- U.S. Embassy or Consulate near you (www.usembassy.gov/)
- Faculty & Staff at US schools (send e-mails)
- Recruiters, Agents
- Lawyers in your country with US LL.M. degrees
- Graduates & Current students



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Communicating with current LL.M. students or graduates?

- Current students & graduates are great sources of information about a Law School!
- Schools will arrange for prospective students to communicate with current students or graduates.
- *Be sure to find out positive and negative things about the school!*
- Can communicate via e-mail or phone. Some schools have instant messaging.
- Meet with graduates in your region!
- Visit campuses. Sit in on classes. Meet students, professors.



"Faculty members always find time to assist students with their academic and personal needs. The professors have a positive attitude and motivate their students to give their best effort. All my professors were approachable and courteous. For an international student studying in a new country and culture, these relationships mean so much."

 **Ivana Jovanovic**
Belgrade, Serbia

LL.M. Graduate from Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis



The law school professors and staff, and the friendships I forged, marked a significant milestone in my life. I will always treasure the time I spent at IU, my valuable experience in this great country, and experiencing the best of America.

 **Chon Hsing Ng**
Singapore

LL.M. Graduate from Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

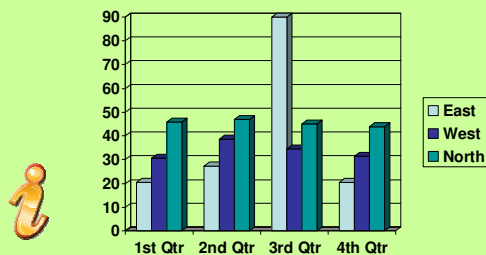



Yemi Lawal, from Nigeria, at her Kansas City internship. LL.M. Graduate from Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

"My expectations of the LL.M. program and the school were greatly exceeded. During the summer after my coursework, I had the wonderful opportunity to join the Program in International Human Rights Law internship program. I worked in London at the Center for Capital Punishment Studies, and then the Public Interest Litigation Clinic in Kansas City, Missouri. My Indiana University - Indianapolis experience was excellent."

 **Ayoyemi Lawal**, Lagos, Nigeria

U.S. Law Alumni Associations



Check to see if your Law School has an Overseas Alumni Association!

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Legal Education in the US – Information Sources

• Education USA

- <http://educationusa.state.gov/professional/admissions/law.htm>
 - Overview of US legal education & law licensing)
- <http://educationusa.state.gov/professional/admissions/law/first.htm>

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Visiting the Law School – A Great Way to Get Good Information!

- Though expensive and usually not practicable, if you can, visit a Law School before you join their LLM program!
- Why?
 - Meet students. Find out first hand about their experiences.
 - Meet career officers – ask how they will *help you* find a job!
 - Meet professors. Sit in on classes.
 - Find out what it would likely be like for you as a student.
 - Meet the Dean and other Administrators.
 - Clarify any questions.
 - Meet Financial Aid officers. Discuss Scholarships or Fellowships.
 - Visit the Library.
 - Check housing possibilities.
 - Generally, try to see if you would feel comfortable, and see if you think your goals will be met at the school.

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J.S.D. or S.J.D. Degree (PhD Equivalent)

(Very Competitive!)



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S.J.D. Admission Requirements

- Requires 1st degree in law (J.D. or LL.B)
- Requires Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree (from U.S.)
- Exceptional promise as a legal scholar through
 - academic transcripts
 - prior written work (e.g., LL.M. thesis)
 - recommendation letters
- Comprehensive dissertation proposal to show finished work publishable, original & substantial contribution to legal scholarship & applicant can complete it
- Identify tenured faculty member who agreed to be Dissertation Advisor, if applicant admitted
- English competency

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J.D. Degree (Juris Doctor)

(1st US professional Law Degree)
(General degree to practice law in US)

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JD Degree – Juris Doctor

- 1st level professional or graduate law degree in US
- In US, formal law study only available at 1st this level.
- JD students *must already* hold 4-year undergraduate degree. (BA, BS, etc)
- JD – Usually required to practice law in US
- 3 years of study.
- Must take Law School Admission Test (LSAT) (See <http://www.lsac.org> for LSAT registration info.)
- The LSAT is offered overseas.
 - See <http://www.lsac.org/pdfs/2008-009/TestCenterCodes.pdf>
- International students must take TOEFL or equivalent

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Structure of the JD Program

- Main focus = US law. Three Year program.
- Year # 1 –
 - Very structured
 - Mandatory courses, e.g., civil procedure, contracts, criminal law and procedure, legal method, legal writing, property law and torts.
 - Moot court exercises (mock trials) in which students argue cases against one another.

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J.D. Years # 2 & 3

- Less structured
- Offers some choices, but within categories.
- Specialization can lead to "concentration" or "certification in a specialty" at some schools in some areas.
- Courses may include evidence, civil litigation, taxation, wills & trusts, administrative, corporate, commercial, family, environmental or private & public international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law.
- Students have more freedom to choose courses in their field of interest.

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Other JD Experiences

Practical Experience – Clinics, Internships

- Gain professional skills
- Actual or simulated work with clients (with real law firm or public agency)
- On-site clinics dealing with minor cases,

Substantive study -- Lots of reading.

- **Case Method.** Forms structure of most courses. Texts = casebooks – collections of judicial opinions on actual court cases. Students read related cases and answer questions based on them in class.
- **Socratic Method.** Ltd Direct questions. Sharpen critical thinking skills. Distinguish subtleties.

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What do law schools look for—JD?

- No specific undergraduate degree subject area or specific courses required
- Emphasize importance of demanding, well-rounded education
- Critical thinking, problem solving, analytical reading, oral & written communication, general research skills.

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Helpful for prospective law school students to learn about

- American history
- Political theory & American political system
- Ethics & theories of justice (philosophy, religion)
- Micro-economic theory
- Basic math & accounting skills
- Human behavior & social interaction (psychology, sociology)
- International issues
- Experience with any of these areas prior to law school will help with the intake of vast amounts⁴⁸

Other U.S. Law Degrees & Study Opportunities

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Joint degrees

- Many US law schools offer joint degrees in various disciplines.
- Popular joint degrees with
 - JD-MBA JD-MPH
 - JD-MD JD-MA
 - LLM-MPH LLM-MBA
- Law degrees joint with degrees in political science, history, engineering, & library science.
- Double-count courses.
 - Cross-over credits count in each program toward degree in other program.
 - 2 degrees earned in shorter time than required for each degree separately

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Short-Term Legal Education

- Sometimes offered in summer or winter break.
- Last one week - two months.
- Offer wide selection of courses
- Many courses appropriate for international lawyers.

<http://educationusa.state.gov/professional/admissions/law.htm>

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Websites for Prospective Law Students

- Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) , <http://www.lsac.org/>
 - LSAC is non-profit organization that administers LSAT & runs Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS). To apply for JD to any ABA-approved law school one must take the LSAT & register with LSDAS.
- Jurist, <http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/admissions.htm>
 - JURIST = web legal education portal. University-based academic gateway to authoritative legal instruction, info & scholarship online.
 - Edited by U.S. law professors
- Pre-law page of Internet Legal Resource Guide, www.ilrg.com/pre-law.html
 - Info re law & legal profession. Many links to law schools, LSAT prep, application strategies, rankings, & pre-law guides from various colleges.
- Pre-law page of Hieros Gamos, <http://www.hg.org/studentprelaw.html>
 - Legal research web site. Links to law schools, law firms, bar associations, legal journals and more.

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More websites

- American Bar Association (ABA) (Education Resource Page) (<http://www.abanet.org/education.html>)
 - ABA approved law schools; frequently asked questions about law school accreditation; preparation for a legal education; admission to the bar; careers in the legal profession.
- Council on Legal Opportunity (CLEO) (www.abanet.org/education.html)
- National Bar Association (nationalbar.org) (African American Bar)
- National Association for Law Placement (NALP) (<http://www.nalp.org>)
 - Nonprofit educational association to meet needs of legal employment process participants — legal employers, law schools, & law students and graduates — for info, coordination, & standards.
- Pre-law Handbook (<http://www.prelawhandbook.com/>)
 - Non-profit, non-commercial web site with info prospective law students may want

Even More Websites & Resources!

- Association of American Law Schools, <http://www.aals.org/>
- National Conference of Bar Examiners, <http://www.ncbex.org/>
- State Bar Associations <http://www.abanet.org/barserv/stobar.html>
 - New York State Board of Law Examiners, <http://www.nybarexam.org/>
 - The State Bar of California, <http://www.calbar.org/>
- The National Jurist Magazine, <http://www.natjurist.com/>
 - Directory of State Bar Admission Administrators (also available from National Conference of Bar Examiners www.ncbex.org/)
- Internet Resources for Legal Studies, <http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/lgst/internet.htm>
- LLRX.com: CongressLine: Legislative Monitoring. <http://www.llrx.com/congress/legislativemonitoring.htm>
- Guide to Internet Research for Lawyers, http://www.ali-aba.org/aliaba/glenbacal_2002.htm
- Directory of Graduate Law Degree Programs. Washington, DC: Federal Reports Inc.
- Official Guide to US Law Schools. New York: Law School Admissions Council.

Some websites visited & sources for powerpoint presentation

- www.usefpakistan.org/
- www.americancouncilskyiv.org.ua/Downloads/IEC/pack6/Law_Grad.doc
- www.americancouncilskyiv.org.ua/Downloads/IEC/pack6/Law_Voc.doc
- www.americancouncilskyiv.org.ua/Downloads/IEC/pack6/Law_Applic_Grad.doc
- www.americancouncilskyiv.org.ua/Downloads/IEC/pack6/Law_Short-Term_Studies.doc
- www.law.qut.edu.au/international/study - Queensland University of Technology
- law.vanderbilt.edu/ - Vanderbilt University Law School
- www.americancouncilskyiv.org.ua/Downloads/IEC/pack1/updated.uk_us_ed_chart.doc
- educationusa.state.gov/professional/admissions/law/short_term.htm
- www.americancouncilskyiv.org.ua/Downloads/IEC/pack2/Fin_Aid4Grad_Stud.doc
- www.llmdegree.com/
- www.llmstudy.com/editorial/accept/
- www.llmstudy.com/editorial/rank
- www.llmstudy.com/editorial/do/
- www.llmstudy.com/editorial/pay/
- www.llmstudy.com/editorial/LLMchoose/
- www.llm.hobsons.com/info_destinations.jsp?id=INFO_DESTINATION_US

Join other elite students from every country
in the world who have earned degrees from
law schools in the United States!



